

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00001 051014Z

17

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W  
----- 106873

O R 050925Z JAN 76  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9366

UNCLAS PRAGUE 001

PASS IBS CZECH SERVICE, IEU - J.SADLIK, ICS - E. MATTOS

SECSTATE FOR CU/OEXC

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: PRAGUE THEATER CONGRESS

1. PRAGUE, JANUARY 5 -- TWENTY-EIGHT COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED AT THE WEEK-LONG FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SCENOGRAPHERS AND THEATER TECHNICIANS WHICH OPENED IN PRAGUE TODAY. MEETING CONCURRENTLY WITH THE PRAGUE QUADRENNIAL, AN INTERNATIONAL STAGECRAFT EXHIBIT, THE CONGRESS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT STAGE AND THEATER PERSONALITIES TO DISPLAY THEIR WORKS, AND FOR STUDENTS, EXPERTS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO FIND OUT WHAT IS NEW IN THE WORLD OF STAGE AND THEATER DESIGN.

2. THE WEEK-LONG CONGRESS WILL FEATURE A VISIT TO PRAGUE'S THEATERS, INCLUDING THE RECENTLY-RENOVATED SMETANA THEATER, NOW POSSESSING SOME OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED LIGHTING AND SCENE MOVING EQUIPMENT IN THE WORLD BEHIND ITS GOLD, RED, AND WHITE BAROQUE EXTERIOR.

3. A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION REPRESENTS THE UNITED STATES IN PRAGUE. MORE THAN 50 PERSONS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND, INCLUDING THEATER ARCHITECTS, SCENOGRAPHERS, COSTUMERS, LIGHTING DESIGN  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00001 051014Z

EXPERTS AND 10 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WHO INTEND TO MAKE CAREERS

IN THE THEATER ARTS.

4. THE GENERAL DELEGATES INCLUDE CHARLES FROOM, WHO DESIGNED THE AMERICAN EXHIBIT BEING SHOWN AT THE CONGRESS; MAURICE MCCLELLAND, AN AMERICAN MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL THEATER INSTITUTE; AND PATRICIA ZIPPRODT, A WELL-KNOWN NEW YORK COSTUME DESIGNER. MISS ZIPPRODT HAS PLANNED THE COSTUMES FOR NUMEROUS BROADWAY MUSICALS AND PLAYS INCLUDING PIPPIN, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, CABARET, THE LITTLE FOXES, AND FOR THE JEROME ROBBINS' BALLETS LES NOCES, WATERMILL, AND DYBBUK VARIATIONS. HER FILM WORK INCLUDES COSTUMES FOR THE GRADUATE, 1776, AND THE GLASS MENAGERIE.

5. ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN STAGE PERSONALITIES PRESENT IS MING CHO LEE AND HIS WIFE BETSY LEE OF THE YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DRAMA. MR. LEE STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES SCHOOL OF APPLIED ARTS, AND IS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL THEATER INSTITUTE ADVISORY COUNCIL. HE WAS PRINCIPAL SET DESIGNER FOR THE NEW YORK CITY OPERA, INCLUDING FAUST AND JULIUS CEASAR. HE ALSO DESIGNED LA FAVORITA FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA, MADAME BUTTERFLY FOR THE OPERA COMPANY OF BOSTON, ARIODANTE FOR THE KENNEDY CENTER IN WASHINGTON, AND FOR BROADWAY THEATERS PREPARED THE RAKE'S PROGRESS, MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN AND NUMEROUS SHAKESPEARIAN PLAYS.

6. MING CHO LEE DESIGNED THE PRODUCTIONS OF OUR TOWN AND INHERIT THE WIND FOR WASHINGTON'S ARENA STAGE CULTURAL EXCHANGE TOUR OF THE SOVIET UNION IN 1973. HE HAS ALSO REALIZED SETS FOR DANCERS MARTHA GRAHAM, ALVIN AILEY, JOSE LIMEN, THE JOFFREY BALLETS AND THE CITY CENTER BALLETS. SOME OF HIS RECENT WORK INCLUDED A HIGHLY-ACCLAIMED SETTING FOR BORIS GUDUNOV AT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA AND THE SEAGULL FOR ANDRE GREGERY.

7. THE CONGRESS SCHEDULE INCLUDES: JANUARY 5 REGISTRATION, OPENING CEREMONY, AND ATTENDANCE AT THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES; JANUARY 6 - PLENARY SESSION, REPORTS OF SPECIALIZED COMMISSIONS; JANUARY 7 - A COLLOQUY OF "EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF STAGE DESIGNERS, THEATER TECHNICIANS, AND ARCHITECTS," A VISIT TO THE EXHIBITION OF STAGE DESIGN SCHOOLS, AND A TOUR OF

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00001 051014Z

THE CZECHOSLOVAK EXHIBITION AT THE PRAGUE QUADRENNIAL, FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION AT THE HISTORIC WALLENSTEIN PALACE. ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, THE COLLOQUY WILL CONTINUE AND IN THE EVENING THE PRINCIPAL AMERICAN DELEGATES WILL HOLD A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON "THEATER DESIGN IN AMERICA TODAY." FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION AT THE AMERICAN EXHIBITION. THE CONGRESS' FINAL SESSION WILL BE FRIDAY, JANUARY 9.

8. THE AMERICAN EXHIBIT IS COMPOSED OF SEVERAL MODELS OF CONTEMPORARY STAGE DESIGNS, PLUS NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCHES. BEFORE SHOWING IN PRAGUE, THIS INTERNATIONAL EXHIBIT WAS DISPLAYED IN VIENNA, BERLIN, AND WASHINGTON, D.C. FOLLOWING THE PRAGUE DISPLAY IT IS SCHEDULED TO TOUR THE UNITED STATES FOR TWO YEARS UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AS A U.S. BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM.

QUINN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS, THEATER (DRAMA)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PRAGUE00001  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** I  
**Film Number:** D760002-0501  
**From:** PRAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760186/aaaacyor.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION CU  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** castelsl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by castelsl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRAGUE THEATER CONGRESS  
**TAGS:** SCUL, CZ  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006